

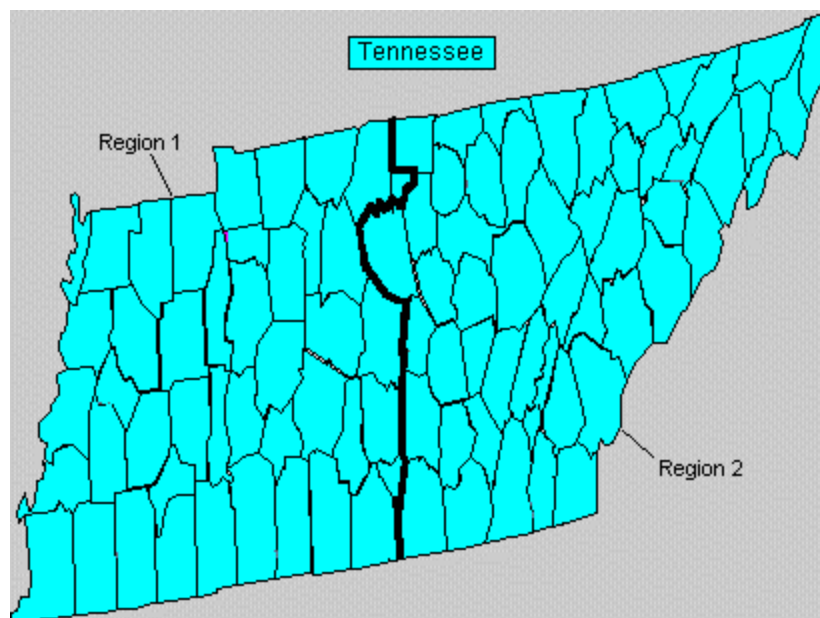
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Tennessee

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Tennessee

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 5,483,535 (1999 estimate); 4,877,185 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 83% white, 16% black, 0.2% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 0.7% Asian/Pacific Islander; 0.2% other race; 0.7% Hispanic origin
- Percent of Population below poverty level (1995 Census Estimate): 14.7%

Politics²

- Governor: Don Sunquist
- Secretary of State: Riley Darnell
- Attorney General: Paul G. Summers
- U.S. Senate: Fred Thompson (R), William H. Frist (R)
- U.S. House of Representatives: William Jenkins (R), John Duncan, Jr. (R), Zach Wamp (R), Van Hilleary (R), Bob Clement (D), Bart Gordon (D), Ed Bryant (R), John Tanner (D), Harold Ford, Jr. (D)
- Appalachia HIDTA Director: William C. Kerstann³

Programs/Initiatives

- Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁴
The Appalachia HIDTA was designated in 1998 and is responsible for counties in Kentucky, West Virginia, and 28 counties in Tennessee. This HIDTA was designated in part because of the enormous quantity of marijuana produced, consumed, and trafficked in and through the area.
- Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication⁵
Established in 1983, the primary objectives of this Task Force include the following:
 - Seek out and eradicate marijuana found in Tennessee
 - Arrest and prosecute individuals and groups who knowingly participate in this illegal activity.
 - Continually seek to eliminate or disrupt illegal acts against TN citizens related to marijuana cultivation.
- FY99 Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantee awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):⁶
 - \$100,000 to the Alcohol and Drug Council of Middle Tennessee, Inc. of Nashville
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁷
 - Chattanooga: The Target Area of the Chattanooga Weed and Seed site is the Westside community. The Tennessee River and major downtown thoroughfares border this community. This area is one of the poorest neighborhoods in Chattanooga and can be identified as "impacted" in terms of the concentration of subsidized housing units, crime and unemployment.
 - Dyersburg: The City of Dyersburg became officially recognized as a Weed and Seed site in 1996. This city has a population of approximately 21,000. Almost

20% of this population live at the poverty level. Initially, only two residential neighborhoods were targeted in this Weed and Seed effort. The Target Areas now include the following neighborhoods: Bruce, Mill, Future City, South Dyersburg, and Evansville. The downtown business district has also been targeted for revitalization.

➤ **Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services⁸**

This program funds treatment, intervention and rehabilitation services for thousands of Tennesseans each year through community-based outpatient and residential treatment facilities across the state. This program also funds prevention activities designed to prevent alcohol and other drug abuse among youth and adults.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During the 1998 marijuana eradication season (May to October), the Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication made 130 arrests.⁹
- From September 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999, agents from the Drug Investigation Division of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation arrested a total of 431 drug offenders.¹⁰
- An increase in competition in marijuana distribution has resulted in an increase in drug-related violence. Growers have begun using firearms, explosives, and booby traps, which has resulted in an increased threat to law enforcement.¹¹
- There were a total of 15,962 arrests for drug abuse violations in Tennessee during 1998, 1,524 involved offenders under the age of 18.¹²

Number of Arrests, Tennessee, 1998

Offense	Under 18	Total All Ages
Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter	24	230
Forcible Rape	33	328
Robbery	180	1,060
Aggravated Assault	501	7,024
Burglary	757	3,325
Larceny-Theft	4,259	18,398
Motor Vehicle Theft	462	1,919
Arson	46	136
Drug Abuse Violations	1,524	15,962
DUI	187	16,189
Liquor Laws	854	4,746
Drunkenness	270	18,626

Drugs

- Marijuana has become a substantial part of the local economy in the Appalachia region – it is the number one cash crop here.¹³
- An ideal climate for marijuana cultivation, poverty, and a rural geography facilitate marijuana production and transportation across county and State lines. There are also approximately 75 public and private airports in the Appalachia HIDTA's region.¹⁴

- Marijuana, cocaine, and diverted prescription drugs continue to be the three drugs most available and most abused and their use appears to be increasing.¹⁵
- Methamphetamine use is rising significantly in Tennessee.¹⁶

Juveniles

- A 1999 survey of Tennessee high school students indicated that 46% of them had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.¹⁷

High School Students Using Selected Drugs, Tennessee, 1999

Drug Type and Use	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use (1)	46%
Current Marijuana Use (2)	26%
Lifetime Cocaine Use	9%
Current Cocaine Use	4%
Lifetime Use of Inhalants	19%
Current Use of Inhalants	5%
Lifetime Injected Illegal Drug Use (3)	2%
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	10%
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	5%

1. Lifetime Use = ever tried drug in life

2. Current Use = used drug one or more times in last 30 days before survey

3. Used a needle to inject drugs

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 1998, there were 20,047 full-time law enforcement employees in Tennessee.¹⁸

Full-time Law Enforcement Employees, Tennessee, 1998

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Civilians</u>		Total Full-time Law Enfor. Employees
Male	Female	Male	Female	
11,306	1,142	3,837	3,762	20,047

- Appalachia HIDTA Initiatives:¹⁹
 - Eradication Strike Force: members in all three states (KY, WV, TN) conduct multi-agency aerial and ground surveillance to identify and eliminate outdoor and indoor cultivated marijuana.
 - Interdiction Team: members in all three states investigate, identify and immobilize major domestic and international smuggling and trafficking into and through the region by conducting highway interdictions.
 - Demand Reduction Team: members in all three states conduct year-round demand reduction operations in order to reduce marijuana use and alter the public's perception that marijuana is a benign drug.
- Tennessee Highway Patrol²⁰
The Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program provided money for Operation No Drugs, funding overtime to be used for criminal interdiction enforcement. Criminal

interdiction involves the suppression of narcotics on the roads, highways, and interstate systems in Tennessee.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication²¹
During the 1998 eradication season, Task Force members eradicated 456,776 marijuana plants located in 2,651 plots, and seized 505 pounds of bulk marijuana. They also seized 28 vehicles, 28 weapons, and \$320,537 worth of currency during this time. From FY98-FY99, this Task Force seized 18 booby traps.
- Drug Investigation Division²²
From September 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999, agents from the Drug Investigation Division seized or purchased the following: 3,906.4 grams of cocaine/crack; 2,982 pounds of bulk marijuana; 286 marijuana plants; 1,208.5 grams of methamphetamine; 29 grams of heroin; 4,017 dosage units of prescription drugs; and 26 dosage units of LSD. They also seized 30 vehicles and confiscated 42 weapons.
- During 1998, a total of 415,418 marijuana plants were eradicated in Tennessee under the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.²³

Cannabis Eradication, Tennessee 1997-1998

	1997	1998
OUTDOOR		
Eradicated Plots	2,218	2,449
Eradicated Plants	1,113,732	415,143
Ditchweed Eradicated	-	-
INDOOR		
Grows Seized	51	17
Indoor Plants	3,790	275
TOTAL		
Plants Eradicated	1,117,522	415,418
Number of Arrests	1,739	311
Weapons Seized	192	28
Assets Seized	\$6,792,202	\$561,188

Courts

- From September 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999, agents from the Drug Investigation Division of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation obtained 830 convictions on drug-related charges.²⁴
- During FY 1998 there were a total of 901 Federal defendants sentenced in Tennessee. 48.8% of these offenders committed a drug offense.
- The most common drug involved in these drug offenses was powder cocaine (34.4%), followed by crack cocaine (20.8%), methamphetamine (18.1%), marijuana (17.2%), heroin (6.8%), and other drugs (2.5%).²⁵
- As of March 31, 2000, there were 13 drug courts in Tennessee that had either already been implemented (6) or were being planned (7).²⁶

Corrections

- On May 1, 2000, there were 15,926 males and 875 females assigned to the 17 adult facilities within the Tennessee Department of Corrections.²⁷
- On February 29, 2000, the percentage of the Tennessee prison population incarcerated for a drug offense was 12.4%.²⁸
- On February 29, 2000, 4,635 offenders were partaking in the community corrections program.²⁹
- As of January 1997 there were 450 inmates in drug treatment programs. Tennessee Department of Corrections completed 19,654 inmate drug tests in 1996 at the cost of \$19.04 per sample.³⁰
- On December 31, 1999, there were 29,563 offenders in Tennessee on regular probation. At this time, there were 1,612 offenders on intensive probation.³¹
- The Community Correction population at this time was 4,630.³²
- For FY98/FY99, the average monthly parole caseload in Tennessee was 7,602.³³

Treatment

- As of October 1, 1997 132 treatment facilities in Tennessee held 13,166 clients. Of the total number of clients 46.4% were receiving treatment for both an alcohol and a drug-related problem, 30.9% for a drug problem alone, and 22.7% for an alcohol problem alone.³⁴
- During 1997 there were 3,074 drug treatment admissions in Tennessee. The majority of these were for smoked cocaine.³⁵

Admissions to Pennsylvania Treatment Facilities, 1997	
Alcohol	746
Alcohol w/ secondary drug	586
Heroin	16
Other opiates	106
Cocaine (smoked)	905
Cocaine (other route)	156
Marijuana/Hashish	427
Methamphetamine/Amphetamine	1
Other stimulants	1
Tranquilizers	31
Sedatives	17
Hallucinogens	2
PCP	0
Inhalants	14
Other/None specified	66
Total Admissions	3,074

Sources

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- ² State of Tennessee Web site: <http://www.state.tn.us/gov.html>
- ³ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/appl-main.html>
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵ Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication: http://www.tbi.state.tn.us/drug_gov_task_force.htm
- ⁶ Drug-Free Communities Grantee List: <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/drugfree/chart99.html>
- ⁷ Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org/south.asp>
- ⁸ Tennessee Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services: <http://170.142.76.180/AandD/>
- ⁹ Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication: http://www.tbi.state.tn.us/drug_gov_task_force.htm
- ¹⁰ Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Drug Investigation Division: http://www.tbi.state.tn.us/drug_stat_info.htm
- ¹¹ Appalachia HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/appl-fs.html>
- ¹² Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr>
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- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs, *Three Year Drug and Violent Crime Strategy, 1997, 1997*
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Nashville and Davidson County Metropolitan Health Department, *1999 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, January 2000*: http://healthweb.nashville.org/health_d_yrbs_final_report.html
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- ²¹ Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication: http://www.tbi.state.tn.us/drug_gov_task_force.htm
- ²² Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Drug Investigation Division: http://www.tbi.state.tn.us/drug_stat_info.htm
- ²³ Drug Enforcement Administration, *1998 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program Statistical Report, 1998*
- ²⁴ Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Drug Investigation Division: http://www.tbi.state.tn.us/drug_stat_info.htm
- ²⁵ United States Sentencing Commission Web site: <http://www.ussc.gov/judpack/1998/tn98.pdf>
- ²⁶ Office of Justice Programs, Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County, March 31, 2000*
- ²⁷ Tennessee Department of Corrections Web site: <http://www.state.tn.us/correction/faq.html>
- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Corrections Program Office, *State Efforts to Reduce Substance Abuse Among Offenders, October 1998*
- ³¹ Tennessee Department of Corrections Web site: <http://www.state.tn.us/correction/faq.html>
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Ibid.
- ³⁴ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Uniform Facility Data Set (UFDS), 1997 - Data on Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities, June 1999*
- ³⁵ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Treatment Episodes Data Sets (TEDS): 1992-1997 National Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment Services, August 1999*

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